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THE GUILFORD GAZETTE



February 2023 Issue

Guilford Store Opens its Doors!

BY ANNE RIDER

By the time of your reading, the Guilford Country Store will be, again, the social center of Guilford.

The Board of Friends of Algiers is very excited to have new owners for the Guilford Country Store business. As of Gazette deadline, Ali West and Wayne Warwick, of Warwick & West, LLC, plan to re-open the store on February 1, 2023.

The Guilford Country Store is housed in the historic Broad Brook House (which is still owned by Friends of Algiers). It closed on December 31, 2022, after Marc and Suzanne Tessitore made the decision to move on from the business.

"We are impressed with the extensive experience that Ali and Wayne bring to this venture, and it's a wonderful bonus that Ali grew up in Guilford and knows the community well. Wayne has also volunteered countless hours at the Guilford Fair over the years. We are confident the store will be in very good hands," said Anne Rider, Chair of the Friends of Algiers Board of Trustees.

West brings decades of experience in food service and management to her new role as operator. Most recently, she has served as the Food Services Director of Windham Southeast Supervisory District, receiving widespread recognition for her leadership response to the COVID-19 pandemic, when she quickly developed a plan to feed all of the children in the district with food deliveries by bus. Prior to her role with WSESD, she managed other kitchens in a general store as well as cafes, bakeries and delis. Warwick, who currently serves as senior manager of Service Delivery



Ali West and Wayne Warwick, new owners of the Guilford Country Store.

at C&S Wholesale Grocers, grew up and lives in Brattleboro.

"Since I was ten years old, I had a fascination with the Guilford Country Store. I have wanted to run that store, be a part of the community, and cook nourishing, tasty food for my friends, family, and strangers, alike," said West. "Fast forward 41 years and my business partner and I are so excited to re-open this beloved fixture of our town." West will expand the hours and menu, with her own tasty creations offered 7 days a week.

West and Warwick assume operatorship of the Guilford Country Store following 10 years under the helm of the

Tessitores. Friends of Algiers had completed extensive renovations since purchasing the store from Pat Good in 2010. The Tessitores began operating the business in 2013. Before 2013, the store had been dormant for 4 years, after serving as a community landmark under the ownership of Pat and Jim Good and, in prior years, Dart and Joy Everett.

"When we completed the renovations on the store in 2013, we were eager to return the

Guilford Country Store to its place as a community hub. Marc and Suzanne were committed to relaunching the store and re-establishing a place to bring the community together. For the past ten years, they have helped achieve our shared vision, and the store has been returned to its central role in the community. We are so grateful for their years of dedication and involvement with the Guilford community," said Anne.

Friends of Algiers Village is an all-volunteer, community non-profit based in Guilford, Vermont. Since 2004, the non-profit has had the goal of guiding the socially responsible development of Algiers Village in the absence of zoning. "We have been extremely successful in our efforts to revitalize this village with the goal of protecting its historic resources and using them to create a strong, self-sustaining village center."

"We will miss Marc and Suzanne at the store when we hold our meetings there," says Nancy Detra for the Gazette team, "but we hope to see them out in the community often. And we welcome Ali and Wayne!"



Suzanne and Marc Tessitore leave the store in good hands

The Guilford Gazette

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GCC first graders after a day on the hill
at Memorial Park.

photo credit: Sarah Rosow

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New Ski Trail in the Weeks Forest

BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Legend has it that 50-some-odd years ago in the hills of West Guilford there was a boy who could ski like the wind. Each morning, he waited for the school bus as he waxed his skis to the conditions of the day. When he spotted the school bus approaching its usual stop, that was his signal to go! The race was on to the Guilford Elementary School: cross country skier vs. big yellow school bus. Charting a serpentine route in the woods just north of Carpenter Hill Road, he would kick, glide, and herringbone his way to school. On more days than not, the lone skier would arrive first, just as the bus chugged its way up School Road. The diesel-powered school bus was simply no match. Soon this Guilford student would be representing the United States in the 1976 Winter Olympics, with Bill Koch shocking the world by bringing home a silver medal to Guilford, Vermont.

The goal of the Guilford Trails Committee is to expand foot trails in our town. In the spirit of Bill Koch's race against the school bus, the committee

has completed initial work on blazing a new ski trail in the Weeks Forest. Located in Guilford Center just across from the old brick schoolhouse, the Weeks Forest carriage road has become a popular spot for enjoying a scenic and historical walk along the Broad Brook. This new trail begins just across from the footbridge at the end of the carriage road, and ascends towards a view near the top of Wilkins Hill. The four-mile trail then loops back to the beginning of the carriage road via a winding and thrilling descent on the south side of the Weeks Forest.

This past fall, several crews of volunteers assembled on weekends to clear the initial trail route. Using a mix of chainsaws and hand tools, the crews removed downed trees and small branches to open up the route. The goal was to create a natural, flowing trail that was minimally cleared and relatively narrow. Designed to be a cross country ski trail in the winter, with a 500-foot vertical rise, the trail is

a challenging and exhilarating ski. The Trail Committee has plans to create other ski trail options within the Weeks Forest that are flatter and more accessible for all abilities. In the future, this network of ski trails will also provide great options for hiking in the summer.

Next steps for the new trail include mapping the final route and clearly marking the trail with signs, maps, and blazes. The committee will be undertaking regular improvements and maintenance to the expanding Weeks Forest trail system. The Guilford Trails Committee is grateful for the help of our trail crews, and we are excited to continue to expand foot trails in our town.



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Bill Koch ski trail



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Candidate Statements

Jaime Durham Candidate for 2-year Selectboard Seat



Hello neighbors! My name is Jaime Durham, and I'm running for the upcoming vacant two-year seat on the Guilford Selectboard. I live in Guilford off of Sweet Pond Road with my husband and two kids (and a few dogs and ducks).

Some of you may know me through Guilford Central School, where my kids are in kindergarten and second grade. Or, you may know me from my time working at the Broad Brook Community Center, where I had the opportunity to help manage the operations and assist with fundraising from 2019-2021. I also chaired Guilford's ARPA Advisory Committee this past year, and have encountered some of you through that process. My husband and I have a construction business called Owl's Head Builders, so it's possible you

know me through that as well! We are also Guilford's Green-Up Day coordinators.

I'm originally from the Bay Area in California and have a BA in Cultural Anthropology from Cornell University. I spent a few years traveling and working abroad as an English language teacher after college, and then moved to Vermont in 2011 with my husband. We fell in love with the Green Mountains after hiking the Long Trail, and decided to settle in this area when I discovered SIT Graduate Institute. I earned my MA in teaching English as a foreign language, and then stayed to work at SIT. Now, I work primarily for our growing construction business, but I like to stay connected to the English language teaching world through volunteering (most recently teaching the Afghan refugees in Brattleboro) and working as a freelance researcher into English language programs abroad.

I love living in Guilford, and feel very lucky to have found a home in such a unique place where my kids are thriving, and I can be in the woods every day. I am happy to find ways to support the community. In my time on the ARPA Advisory Committee, I learned a lot about small-town governance and Guilford's plans for the future. I've witnessed the happenings of the past year, and would look forward to the opportunity to put my skills to use for the Town, and help us work together as a community. If given the chance, with your vote, I would be grateful to serve.

Thank you.

Verandah Porche Candidate for 3-year Seat on Selectboard



My name is Verandah Porche, Vice Chair of the Guilford Selectboard. I am running for a third three-year term on the Selectboard, having served most recently during pandemic times. Since joining, I've learned so much about neighborly resilience, grassroots governance, and the complex requirements of state statutes. As Vice Chair, I provide support to the Chair, coordinate Community Comments, and review and present the Warrants, and support the collaborative efforts of community nonprofits. In addition, I am the liaison to the Cemetery Commission and the Recreation Commission. Last year, on behalf of the Selectboard, I hosted the celebration of the Lucy and Abijah historic marker, and shared my poem at the reopening of the Broad Brook Community Center.

Continued on next page

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Candidate Statements

Lesley Malouin Candidate for 3-Year Seat for Auditor



I am seeking your support for my 2nd 3-year term as Town Auditor. I have provided Guilford a much improved Town Report that is easily readable and an enjoyable visual time capsule of life in this beautiful town. I hope to continue to support the townspeople with their reasonable requests and maintain the standards required of a Guilford Town Auditor.

Elly Majonen Candidate for Treasurer

Though born and raised in Guilford, CT, I have lived in Southern Vermont since 1980. My husband and I settled in Guilford, VT in 1993 with our two children, who attended Laura Lawson Tucker's early childhood education program, my own early care and education program, Guilford Central School and BUHS. Now college grads, our eldest is a potter/artist who lives in Guilford and our youngest lives and works in the Burlington, VT area.

I have worked in/with the Guilford Town Office in a variety of positions over the years. I began with Barbara Oles, who was the Town Clerk/Treasurer and School Treasurer at the time. I worked with Barbara to track the grant expenses for the Community Service Program, run by Joe Brooks at GCS. Barbara also introduced me to the position of Town Auditor. For several years I worked with Neil Quinn, Cathi Wilken, and other Town Auditors creating reports for and editing the Annual Town report. As Guilford's Green Up Coordinator for 20+ years, I coordinated efforts with the Town Road Crew, the Grange, GCS and the community for the

Annual Green-Up. After a computer issue that resulted in the loss of about a year's worth of land records at the Town Office, I worked very part-time with Penny Marine, Town Clerk/Treasurer, to research and restore what had been lost. This led to being hired as the Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer. I left that position in 2020 for a fulltime bookkeeping position.

Some of my relevant financial experiences outside of the town office include: Treasurer, Secretary and Limited Partner of Wettemann Family Farm LP in Guilford, CT; Bookkeeper/Administrator for Guilford (VT) Community Church (GCC); Bookkeeper for Valley Cares, Inc, Townshend, VT; Board Member and position of Chair, Treasurer, and/or Secretary for several non-profit organizations – Windham Child Care Association (WCCA), Reformer Christmas Stocking, Community Collaborative for Guilford (CC4G), and Guilford Recreation Club, to name a few.

Strengths that I will bring to Treasurer position: familiarity with the Town's accounting program (NEMRC); previous work with the town's AP, AR, delinquent tax collection, AFD#1 billing; familiarity with Town Clerk duties and responsibilities; grant writing and reporting skills; budgeting; communication skills; my commitment to building community.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve the Town of Guilford as Treasurer.

Verandah Porche, Continued

I moved to Packer Corners in 1968, raised two daughters here, and worked as a teaching poet at Guilford Central School, and around New England. At a divisive time around 2007, I began writing "Kitchen Talks with Guilford Elders." From their youthful stories, I created "Broad Brook Anthology, a play for voices," first

presented during Guilford's 250th celebration. I currently work with Art in the Neighborhood, creating poetry with kids who live in Brattleboro's public housing. Language is a powerful tool and a pleasure. My artistic work is based on curiosity, patient listening, and making deep, honest connections. I try to apply these values to my civic life.

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DVFiber Approves 2023 Budget and Connects First Customer

BY JASON BLACK*

The DVFiber board approved the budget for the 2023 calendar year on December 14, 2022. According to plan, DVFiber will start connecting customers for high-speed broadband access to the Internet this spring. For the first time, customer fees will be added on the income side of our ledger in addition to the previously awarded \$21.9 million for construction. This marks an important step in creating a financially sustainable fiber network that is publicly owned and operated.

As part of a pilot in late December, a very small number of customers in Readsboro were connected to DVFiber.net. This pilot group is now testing our network for reliability of speed and access to the Internet for a three-month beta testing period. In the coming weeks DVFiber will survey the pilot group for feedback regarding all aspects of customer service, including initial connection, call response time, repair, customer support, and billing. The successful pilot and its survey findings will help ensure that connecting large numbers of customers will go as quickly and smoothly as possible in 2023.

As required by our construction grant agreement with the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB), DVFiber has submitted detailed design plans for review and approval by VCBB and its professional staff. These plans will inform and direct all construction and customer connection work for the next 18-24 months. Following VCBB approval, which assures the public that the grant funds will be well spent, DVFiber will



be able to begin using the \$21.9 M grant award to meet expenses.

Townships throughout the DVCU district had also been asked to consider estimating a portion of their allotted ARPA funds as part of a match program with DVFiber. Through communication and collaboration with Guilford's ARPA Advisory Committee, we have reached a general estimate for this funding and the intention is to formalize this well before the early Spring deadline. This estimate is in line with neighboring communities of the district and the funds will go directly toward deploying and installing the infrastructure to reach the homes and households most in need.

Breaking through the rhetoric: In the closing weeks of 2022, many in town and throughout the state had reported seeing a recent FCC assessment of Vermont's Broadband capabilities (<https://vtdigger.org/2022/11/22/the-fcc-has-a-new-broadband-map-vermont-officials-say-it-vastly-overstates-reality/>) this year and leading into the new year. A key indicator from this assessment found that more than 95% of the state is currently being served with some form of Internet access from local or national service providers. This indicator was significant to our efforts because it ties back to how funding from the federal agency will be determined for our state. With

a quick turnaround for appeal, many sought to challenge the result for their address and VCBB went about educating each district on its overall meaning. It should be noted that the assessment was based on data provided not by households but by the Internet service providers. The Governing

Board at DVFiber, along with VCBB, are still reviewing this data source, but public perception has already been impacted by the regional and national news. More on the full impact of this will come to light, we expect in early 2023.

To follow the latest developments and learn more about DVFiber, please sign up for the DVFiber newsletter at DV-Fiber.net. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at jblackdvfiber@gmail.com or contact Steven John at 802-257-0810 or steven.john@dvfiber.net.

Note: Guilford is a founding member town of the Deerfield Valley Communications Union District (DVCUD, dba DVFiber), a municipal corporation created in April of 2020 to provide universal high-speed broadband service to all unserved and underserved premises in the district.

*Jason Black, Guilford's Representative for the DVFiber (Deerfield Valley Communications Union District) Governing Board and Lynn Pancake, Guilford's Alternate Representative collaborated on this article, with contributing notes from Steven John, Chair of the DVFiber (Deerfield Valley Communications Union District) Governing Board.

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AVOID THE UNEXPECTED

Out of the Shadows and into the Spotlight

BY RICHARD CIANFLONE

Hello, my name is Richard Cianflone, Guilford resident and current Vice President of the Theatre Adventure Board of Directors. I am sharing the story of this expressive arts organization because I believe in the benefits it brings to the lives of those who are often underserved in our communities. My hope is that by sharing this information, Guilford folks will be made aware of our organization and perhaps some will take advantage of our offerings either as a member of one of our acting troupes, by attending one of our performances, by becoming a volunteer, or by becoming a donor.

We offer year-round theater arts programming, both online and in-person. Our organizational mission is to empower youth and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities through the expressive arts while building self-confidence, leadership, and community. The disabilities that our students live with include Autism, Down's Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, deafness/hard of hearing, blindness, and developmental issues.

We serve both youth and adults from Guilford, the surrounding area, and beyond. Some of our actors have been long time participants. You may have read Melody Squire's personal story in the fall issue of the *Gazette*. She spoke of her involvement in Theatre Adventure, the benefits it has brought to her, and how it has helped her lead a more meaningful and fulfilling life. Not only has she excelled as an actor but also as an active member of the Board of Directors. Nate Feindel is also from Guilford. Nate is an actor who brings a passion for music, performance, dancing, and friendship. Both Melody and Nate are examples of how Theatre

Adventure can help enrich the lives of those living with disabilities.

There are other Guilford residents who play a significant role within Theatre Adventure. Laura Lawson Tucker is our co-founder and Executive Director. For over eighteen years she has been bringing vision, passion, and vitality, along with our other co-founder and Disability Specialist, Darlene Jensen, to what has now grown to be our amazing non-profit organization.

Theatre Adventure is fortunate to work with Guilford resident Rich Nethercott, our singer/songwriter for our productions. Rich brings talents as a musician and songwriter that highlight our actors in myriad beautiful ways.

Guilford resident Leslie Kinney, a valued member of the teaching team, also supports development projects. Leslie offers years of experience and has a passion for empowering individuals with disabilities to lead purposeful lives.

Belief in everyone's ability to express themselves in a variety of ways runs deep in Theatre Adventure: First and foremost by honoring the talents and passions of our students; secondly by helping our troupe members advocate for themselves and others.

Valuing diversity and inclusion is at the core of our work. The actors' ideas help create our productions. Their dedication to performing and commitment to supporting one another is inspiring. All are welcome, valued, and have a place.

We have an American Sign Language interpreter for all our shows. We utilize technology that assists our actors to claim their voices as performing artists as we enjoy one another in a spirit of playfulness, creativity, and acceptance. We bring well known classic tales and original works to the stage, all while basking in the magic of theater!

Guilford School's Inaugural Winter Activities Day

PHOTOS BY SARAH ROSOW



*GCC kids on the hill at
Memorial Park*

Photos continue on page 9

Our theater home at the West Village Meeting House is wheelchair accessible. The next semester begins January 11. Spring performances are May 17, 18 and 19th. For further information about classes, summer camps and performances, or to donate please visit our active and engaging website: www.theatreadventure.org or call us at 802-387-0765.



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Walking the Camino de Santiago

BY RACHEL JOHNSON

My husband Dwayne and I first became interested in doing part of the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) about five years ago when one of our friends began talking about it and training for the journey. We knew it had been a mostly contemplative pilgrimage done by Catholics through many centuries, but our friend, who is Christian (but not Catholic), explained that it is open to all. Earlier this spring we began feeling a nudge to find out more and contacted our friend again. She has since walked the last 100 km of the Camino twice.

Because Dwayne and I are both 72 and in good health, we committed to training, but decided we should not be foolhardy and do it completely on our own while carrying backpacks. Our training included buying new hiking

boots and toe socks to avoid blisters, breaking them in by walking the hills of Guilford, and continuing to eat a healthy diet. I read Richard Rohr's daily meditations and felt his words and prayers; my own prayers and our attendance and work at the Guilford Community Church bolstered our spiritual preparation. We learned about the legend, dating back to the beginning of the 9th century, of a shepherd finding the remains of St. James and the town of Santiago being built there, with the remains entombed inside the cathedral.

After a few days in Madrid spent with family, we traveled to Sarria in the region of Galicia in northwestern Spain via train and bus, where we met our guide and members of our tour group. Our guide went over basic logistics and safety precautions and passed out our credentials to be stamped

at locations throughout the walk to authenticate the journey so we would be able to receive certificates of completion at the end. People in our group hailed from Ireland, Canada, and the USA. We had all prepared for the physical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of walking one small section of the Camino de Santiago and were excited to begin the challenge. Our overall goal was to arrive at the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela after six days of walking roughly 23, 23, 15, 14, 26, and 19 km.

After breakfast on September 19, 2022, we began walking the Camino Frances from Sarria to Santiago. Our guide set up a WhatsApp group to which he sent basic instructions for the day and maps of how to get to our accommodations. We were on our own, free to go at our own pace and stop when we wanted or needed, but expected to complete the day's journey. The Way was usually filled with pilgrims young and old—even older than us—walking, biking, and riding horseback. We came from many parts of the world and spoke many different languages. The greeting "Buen Camino" was said and heard over and over! Many spoke with us, shared their journey, or at the very least, waved and smiled. The path has been walked by thousands through many centuries, through the countryside and small towns. It was well marked with the iconic bright yellow scallop shell and arrows, so it was never difficult to find the way. We stopped to enter and pray at a lot of old churches. The weather was very similar to here, and many mornings we

Continued on next page



Santiago de Compostela



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Walking the Camino, continued

started in foggy conditions that made it seem almost ethereal. The terrain was also like here, sometimes difficult but never treacherous. We were definitely tired and hungry each afternoon when we arrived at our accommodations. We ate lots of potatoes, usually in the form of what they call a tortilla—many eggs and potatoes plus jamón, Spanish for ham. We also enjoyed eating octopus one day!

We got to know the others on our tour as well as our guide who was always kind and helpful and would walk with the last members of the group to make sure they made it safely. He recommended restaurants, took photos, and made sure we all had what we needed. Everyone in our group except us developed blisters on their feet. Dwayne had some severe pains in his piriformis muscles, but our guide helped line up two massage

therapists who worked on him so he could continue walking.

The highlight for us was our arrival in Santiago de Compostela on September 24th. We ate lunch with tour members and proceeded through the tunnel, where a bagpiper plays to greet pilgrims, and came out to the Plaza del Obradoiro. We turned to see the massive cathedral behind us. There were hundreds of pilgrims, all with shouts of joy, and we hugged and cried as photos were taken to mark the occasion! Like every other day we arrived at our hotel worn out, needing a shower and rest. Later that evening we received our Compostela pilgrim certificates in Latin for completing the journey. We enjoyed our final dinner, praised and thanked our guide, and walked back to the Plaza to hear traditional Spanish music being played and sung in the portico of City Hall right across from the Cathedral. Another highlight was attending mass the next morning, seeing the massive cathedral filled to standing room only, hearing the powerful organ, and saying the Lord's Prayer together! The incense burner, called a "botafumeiro," was put into motion by a series of pulleys, swinging across the narthex. It was originally intended to "counteract the stench of the pilgrims!"

You can easily find more information on all aspects of the Camino de Santiago on the internet, by reading books, or just asking someone who has walked part of it themselves. We believe it to be well worth the effort.

Buen Camino!



*Dwayne & Rachel Johnson
celebrate completing their walk.*

Winter Activity Day Photos, Continued



GCC kids enjoy winter frisbee



Papa Urban helps kids mount the t-bar.



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Selectboard Reports on a Productive, Difficult Year

BY VERANDAH PORCHE

Greetings. We look forward to gathering with neighbors at Guilford's Pre-Town Meeting at Broad Brook Community Center, 6:30 p.m. on February 23, 2023. And we hope to see you at our first in-person Town Meeting in three years, on Tuesday, March 7, 10:00 a.m. at Guilford Central School. Together, we'll catch up and consider the town's business. In preparation, I'll report on some issues and accomplishments.

First, Guilford faces some key staffing changes. As you recall, Town Administrator Peder Rude was diagnosed with a serious, rare form of cancer last March. The Selectboard recently accepted Peder's resignation. We are grateful for his service and wish Peder our very best. The Selectboard is lucky that Sheila Morse, former Selectboard chair, stepped in as Interim Town Administrator. Currently, we're searching for a new Town Administrator.

Long-time Town Clerk and Town Treasurer Penny Marine announced her retirement for March 2023. The town owes Penny a huge debt of gratitude for her welcoming presence, diligence, dedication, patience, and community leadership.

Given the spiraling complications of financial reporting and regulation, Penny has recommended that the town move from an elected treasurer to an appointed one. The Selectboard agrees with Penny, and the town will vote on this question at the 2023 Town Meeting.

The Selectboard thanks all our town employees for their steadiness, knowledge, and persistence. We acknowledge that these past few years have been particularly demanding.

Legal challenges

Guilford faces a group of unanticipated legal issues. We need residents to take note. Currently, Guilford is party to three types of

legal issues: all require taxpayers' funds and staff time that could better be spent elsewhere. Anticipating soaring expenses, the Selectboard has adjusted the 2023 budget line item from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to cover likely legal fees in FY2024!

Well into 2023, Guilfordites can expect to watch the progress of a lawsuit against the Selectboard. Originally filed in June 2022, the suit was dismissed in Superior Court in October 2022. It has been appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court. Then, one Guilford citizen used a formal statutory process called Allegation of Violation to question the Selectboard's practices and adherence to the Open Meeting Law. Nine allegations have been made between March and December 2022. After consultation with the Town's attorney regarding their validity, all have been denied by the Selectboard.

Any Guilford resident has the right to request access to public documents. In prior years, the town saw relatively few requests. This year, they have increased significantly. Guided by Vermont statute, the complexity of requests often requires considerable staff time for research and delivery.

Notable Accomplishments

Like every municipality across the country, Guilford received its share of ARPA dollars (American Rescue Plan Act), funds generated by the Congress during the COVID pandemic. Guilford has received \$633,091.14. These funds can be used for a variety of clearly-defined purposes in the community, ranging from covering losses from COVID to making investments in the community's future. The Selectboard set up a grant process in 2021, awarding \$74,695.00 to individual households and businesses to address COVID-related losses. In May, 2022, the Selectboard appointed a diverse five-person Guilford ARPA Advisory Committee to make recommendations on allocating the remaining

funds of \$558,396.14. The Advisory Committee solicited ideas and created a detailed report, praised as exemplary, available on the town website.

The Selectboard also authorized expenditures to improve the Town Garage with new siding and a new roof, resulting in a snuggler headquarters for our crew. In addition to daily expert care for our town's roads and bridges, the Highway Department oversaw paving on three roads: Hinesburg, Guilford Center, and School Roads. A State grant relieved 30% of the cost.

Thanks to the Planning Commission, the Selectboard adopted a new, eight-year town plan, which was subsequently approved by the Windham Regional Commission. The plan is available on the town website.

In more good news, Guilford Center's successful application for state designation was completed and approved by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. This designation supports the revitalization efforts of small and medium-sized centers such as ours, and brings financial incentives, training, and technical assistance.

A Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was completed and adopted by the Selectboard. This five-year broad-based plan assesses hazards, and proposes helpful measures to lessen the town's vulnerability to those with the most impact. It also qualifies the town for useful grant programs.

In Conclusion

Our report reflects the goals and priorities set by your Selectboard. We acknowledge that this has been a productive yet difficult year, lightened by the warmth and collegiality of our coworkers and the many volunteers who continue to share their commitments with our caring community.

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Making It Tasty

BY NANCY DETRA

It's a half day today at the Windham Regional Career Center: parent/teacher conferences. Teacher Dave Spanierman has put a pork butt in the smoker in the Culinary Arts kitchen. It will take about 12 hours to smoke to perfection; he'll be able to take it out when he's done with conferences.

Patience and the ability to multitask—these are skills that a good chef has to have, says Spanierman. He takes teaching Culinary Arts at the Career Center seriously, but with a sense of humor that puts students at ease. He teaches his students math—how to make a 4-serving recipe feed 20, and some science—when do different liquids boil, and why. Kids who have come to the Career Center are often here because they find lecture classes don't suit them. Some of the kids are surprised at the level of academics that the two-year course demands. They are all required to read and study the 10-hour OSHA Culinary course—and pass the assessment. Still, alongside the sit-down work, there's a chance to get up and move, literally to get your hands on the dough.

After learning, or relearning, the basic conversions—2 cups in a pint, 2 pints in a quart, and 4 quarts in a gallon, etc. and an assortment of other cooking basics, first-year students learn knife skills. Alex Baker, a Guilford senior who says he's always loved to cook, remembers learning early on in Dave's program how to cut faster and better.

"(Now) I can turn garlic into a paste in under a minute," he says.

Slicing, chopping, dicing, mincing—Dave demonstrates techniques but also the concentration necessary for safety. His students have already proven themselves in their first two years at the high school. They have taken their classwork seriously, earned solid grades, and followed school standards and procedures. That's important, Dave says. He needs to know he can trust students to pay attention when he is showing them how to use a knife.

"I tell 'em if they cut off a finger they automatically fail!" he grins. But when his students are wielding knives, Dave is keeping a watchful eye on everyone in the small group.

The students go on to hone their cooking skills. They try out a lot of recipes, using different techniques and ingredients. Alex likes learning how to prepare foods from a variety of cultures. Oh, they make hamburgers too, but not just how to cook a prepared patty. They start with a side of beef.

"When they ask me what parts (of the chuck roast) to keep and which to throw away, I tell them 'Only keep what you'd want to eat.'"

You can't beat the instant feedback with cooking. You sample what you've created and know immediately whether you've succeeded, or you need to go back to the cutting board.

Hamburgers, pulled pork sandwiches, chicken pies, pastries—the students do it all, and they know when they've aced it.

Alex has many other interests; he plays lacrosse and hockey at the high school, and enjoys just knocking the puck around with friends on the Retreat Meadows. He's got an uncle who cooks professionally, and operates a food truck in his "spare time." Alex already works for him when he can and looks forward to working with him soon. Maybe he'll own his own food truck or restaurant one day.




Culinary Arts student Alex Baker relaxes at the Guilford Country Store

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Informed Civic Participation Throughout the Year

BY MARTY RAMSBURG

We often regard sugaring and mud season as two experiences that define Vermont, but perhaps even more defining is the continued commitment to direct democracy enshrined by Town Meeting. On the first Tuesday in March, Vermonters are encouraged to engage actively with each other to set each town's priorities for the year ahead by approving the town budget, voting for or against local ballot issues, and voting for those running for elected selectboard positions. The tradition of Town Meeting and the uniqueness of participating in direct democracy contribute to a political culture that encourages considerable participation throughout the year.

From running for selectboard to volunteering with town commissions, boards, committees, and various other groups, the opportunities to participate both in setting the goals for our town and with executing those goals are abundant. Most of those groups also welcome non-members to attend their meetings. In other words, the structure of our governance in Vermont in general and in Guilford in particular is open to participation

and is remarkably transparent.

Participation and an ethic of transparency grow out of the requirement for an informed electorate in order for a democracy to function effectively. If only a small proportion of those who can participate do, then we will be lucky if the opinions of the attentive and vocal minority correspond to the interests of the majority. The right to vote presumes a responsibility beyond voting day. It expects us to be informed, to offer opinions based on having paid attention—and the transparency of public meetings allows us to fulfill that responsibility, but only if we take it. An informed electorate is what preserves democracy, not just voting.

We are lucky that in Guilford we have had so many good people volunteer to keep the town humming. From the Selectboard to the Planning Commission to library trustees, our interests have been represented with competence and integrity. That good fortune has allowed many of us to become complacent. Nonetheless, the effort to sow distrust in government is not confined to the national stage; Guilford is not immune.

If we want to continue to attract local people

of integrity into these important, challenging positions, we must fulfill our responsibility to pay attention and not allow an aggressive minority to speak for all of us. Our boards and commissions conduct open meetings, with meeting time and place posted; they also offer the option to observe meetings virtually. In small communities like Guilford, these volunteers are also our neighbors. That connection does not absolve us from our civic responsibility of informed participation, but these interactions reinforce our trust that these individuals are acting in what they believe to be the best interests of the town. Civic engagement must also be civil.

We can easily be informed here in Guilford and preserve and continue our strong tradition of constructive resident involvement. About Town Meeting and local elections, the website of the Secretary of State of Vermont notes that, "[we should feel lucky to live in a place with this unique kind of local government and community, and we should all do our best to take part."

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Winter and Spring Events at the BBCC

BY ADA BROWN

As we enter 2023, we are reflecting on all the warmth and joy that filled the Broad Brook Community Center in our opening months. In November and December, we hosted nine public events, two birthday parties, the new Neighborhood Roots Guilford Food Hub, and a weekly children's group—not to mention an election, Grange meetings, and BBCC board meetings!

I've had the pleasure of attending most of our public events, and it has been wonderful to see all the smiling faces, introductions made, and new friendships started. One of the many highlights was our first community day: a group singing event. A group of us gathered in the dining room, new faces entering every few minutes, before we all went upstairs to a circle of chairs arranged around a large oriental rug. We introduced ourselves and shared our favorite memories of singing. Not surprisingly many of these memories stemmed from childhood, when we were less self-conscious of our voices and willing to burst into song at any moment. All of us, young and old, were giggling and smiling at our memories by the time we made it around the circle. We chose songs we all knew, classics like Hey Jude, as well as learning newly penned sea shanties and revisiting children's songs like Frosty the Snowman. As we were finishing up, someone chose Lean on Me, and after an hour of getting to know each other and warming up, we each put our whole soul into that one, the words so familiar but suddenly new and poignant in this group of new acquaintances and old neighbors.

We were closed for the month of January for the floors to be refinished, but now that they are done, we are planning to break them in with a whole lot of dancing! First, the Broad Brook Community Center's Valentines Dance, with Groove Prophet playing our first public dance since the re-opening. Also in February will be our first Bal folk dance, hosted by accordion player Rachel Bell and featuring her band Eloise and Co., and in March, monthly contra dances will begin on the first Sunday of every month.

Aside from dancing there will also be potlucks, a seed-swapping event, the

Sugar-on-Snow Events

Grange Sugar-on-Snow Supper on March 4

BY DON MCLEAN

Broad Brook Grange's Sugar-on-Snow Supper returns after a two-year absence on Saturday, March 4, at the Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford. The meal features ham, and the following homemade items: baked beans, deviled eggs, potatoes, coleslaw, rolls, donuts, Guilford pickles, and Guilford maple sugar on (we hope!) Guilford snow.

There will be three seatings: at 5, 6 and 7 pm. At each seating, a half-gallon of Guilford maple syrup will be raffled.

This longtime annual fundraiser helps support the many activities of the Grange, which sponsors pre-town meeting, a community Thanksgiving dinner, this supper, and brunches, as well as Guilford Center Stage productions. The Grange organization also provides Christmas stockings for seniors and a college scholarship.

Broad Brook Grange is a partner of the Community Center, and continues to be based in the now-renovated building, which is at 3940 Guilford Center Road, 4 miles west of Algiers Village.

Tickets for the supper are: \$15 for adults; \$5 for children ages 5-12, and \$2 for kids age 4 and under. Reservations for a particular seating are recommended, as the earlier seatings often sell out in advance. A waiting list will also be kept, and those with reservations who cannot make it are asked to phone their cancellation. There are usually a few unreserved seats left for the 7 pm seating, for those who show up without a reservation. Reservations may be made by e-mailing (the preferred method) Thayer at thayertomlinson@hotmail.com. You'll get a confirmation reply. Or you may text her at 202-247-5251. As a third choice the landline is 802/257-5359.

return of in-person Pre-Town Meeting, the Grange's Sugar on Snow Supper, and so much more. To learn details about these and other upcoming events, visit our website: broadbrookcommunitycenter.org. If you are

Sugar-on-Snow Supper or Celebration of Maple?

BY FRED BREUNIG

Members of Guilford Community Church are peering into their crystal ball to try and determine the best way to celebrate the sugaring season in 2023.

One option is to have an old-fashioned pre-pandemic-style Sugar-on-Snow Supper—remember those? Ham, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, deviled eggs, homemade rolls, and maple sugar on snow with dill pickle and donut!

Another idea we are considering is to build on our pandemic era "Celebration of Maple," but moving away from Zoom, and instead building a bonfire in our fire pit, serving sugar on snow, having a syrup raffle in person, and enjoying the anticipated completion of the pavilion at the Guilford Community Park next door.

At any rate, mark your calendar for SOMETHING to happen on **Saturday, March 18**, and stay tuned for details as the date approaches. Feel free to phone or email Fred Breunig for details (802-254-9019 or fmbreunig@comcast.net).



interested in getting involved through volunteering or hosting an event, send us an email at broadbrookcc@gmail.com.

Race to Raise \$20,000

BY NANCY LEITCH

“On Your Mark, Set, Go!”

According to the Guilford Park committee, the “starter pistol” has been fired for a 60-day race to raise \$20,000 more dollars for the construction of the Guilford Community Park. The committee has been working for over a year on plans to build a park behind the Guilford Store, alongside the Guilford Community Church, in the center of Guilford’s Algiers Village. The park they envision is complete with green spaces, a pavilion, a walking labyrinth, children’s play area with a slide and swings, a basketball half-court, and fire pit.

If community members and businesses donate \$20,000 by February 28, the park can qualify for a matching \$40,000 Vermont Community Development “Better Places Program” grant, which will allow the park committee to have everything on their wish list, explained Dunham Rowley, one of the organizers.

According to Rowley, the vision for this park is one where community members of all ages can socialize and foster community through shared recreational experiences. The large and artfully designed timber-frame pavilion will accommodate community events such as concerts, weddings, family reunions, and a host of other activities, Rowley explained, making use of the amphitheater seating. “Simple, yet elegant” is how Rowley describes the future park. A labyrinth will be set into the ground for a “meditative walk,” using the



Dwayne Johnson receiving timbers for park pavilion

classic seven-circuit design inspired by ancient mystics and used across Europe and the United States, he said.

The plans have already received a permit and the blessing of the Act 250 process. Now the only thing that stands in the way of a finished park is \$40,000, \$20,000 of which needs to be raised under a tight deadline in order for the park to qualify an additional \$20,000 from the “Better Places Program.” To donate on-line, visit Patronicity.com/GCP, or mail a check to Community Collaborative for Guilford (CC4G), 475E Coolidge Hwy, Guilford, VT 05301 with Guilford Community Park (GCP) in the memo line. Donations are tax-deductible. For more information, call (802) 579-4572 or email drowley021@msn.com.

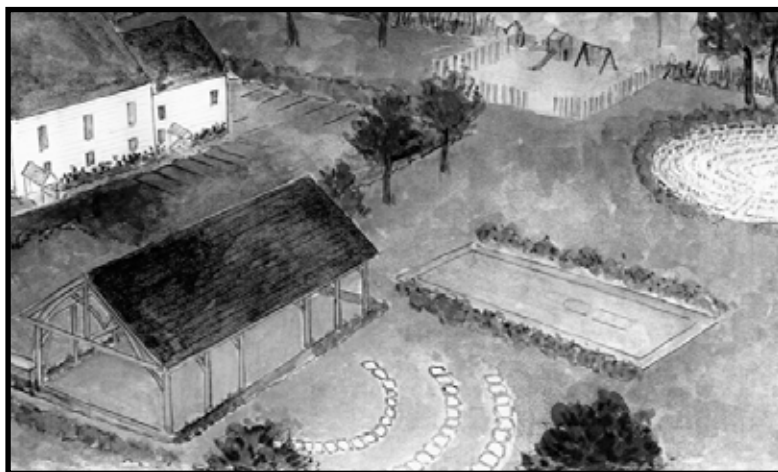


Illustration of Guilford Community Park by Terry Sylvester

Planning to Benefit our Small Town

BY JEANNETTE TOKARZ

Vermont is unique in that small towns are responsible for planning for the growth of small businesses, housing for young families, infrastructure, and preserving the rural and historic character of the town. In most communities in Vermont, volunteer planning commissioners are charged with the work that professional staff planners do in larger communities.

In the past year Guilford’s Planning Commission’s members have immersed themselves in learning more about what town planning can look like and achieve. We’ve had guest speakers, attended workshops, and read articles to gain knowledge and understanding. One outcome of these efforts was the realization that the Planning Commission would benefit from collaborating with a professional planning firm to assist in engaging the community in developing a shared vision for Guilford’s future.

In October, the Selectboard and the Planning Commission jointly sought bids for a Strategic Planning Consultant. Twelve bids were submitted. After an extensive review and interview process, the firm DuBois and King, from Randolph VT was selected due to its proven track record in working with other communities, its familiarity with Guilford, and its “deep bench” of planners, landscape designer, and engineers.

From the outset, the team from DuBois and King spoke about the need to understand the values of the community of Guilford and to use that as the foundation of their work. They plan to engage the community in a variety of settings, from workshops to community meetings.

We look forward to hearing from all of you during this strategic planning process. Work begins in earnest in February, so you will be hearing from DuBois and King and the Planning Commission very soon.



Guilford Center Stage Returns!

BY DON McLEAN

Now that the renovated Board Brook Community Center is open for programs, Guilford Center Stage will return to twice-a-year productions:

May 5-7 2023: **Our Town**, directed by Ian Hefelee. For our first show after a three-year hiatus, we have decided on the 1938 Thornton Wilder classic, *Our Town*—interestingly, Edward Albee’s choice as “the finest American play.” Ian Hefelee, who has appeared on stage in several Guilford Center Stage productions, will direct this play, which is at once so familiar and yet always fresh and innovative. Auditions will be held later this month.

October 20-22 2023: A sort of October surprise, directed by Michael Nethercott. Our most-performed playwright, Michael Nethercott, of Guilford, has decided to keep on hold the play that was originally scheduled when COVID hit. Instead, he has promised a new group of small-cast short pieces with a seasonal theme for late October.



Ian Hefele shares a moment on The Guilford Center stage with Julie Holland

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What the Guilford Highway Department Is Up To

BY JOSLYN MCINTYRE

Curious about the town trucks I see devotedly plowing, sanding, and grading our roads in Guilford all year long, I reached out to the Guilford Highway Department for some data. I was fortunate to speak with both Richard Garland and Dan Zumbruski, who gave me the following details about the road work the crew (which also includes Peter Fletcher, Jim Freeman, and Jason Willette) takes care of for the citizens of Guilford: the care of nearly 80 miles of roads—13 miles of blacktop and the rest dirt, aka gravel.

I asked Richard what the job is like during different seasons of the year, and he described the grading they do in the summer, and how, in the winter, one round

of plowing the town takes a solid work day of eight hours each for five people—not including sanding, which comes next. “It takes a lot of time to get around on the icy days,” he told me, “but in mud season, well, we play in mud.”

There are also over 2,000 culverts in Guilford, and the crew spends time cutting brush, trimming the weeds back, and mowing all summer long. They keep an eye out for signage issues as well. Believe it or not, there’s a strict logic to where road signs are placed. They have to be five to six feet from the edge of the road and about six feet high, so the average person can walk under them without bonking their head. (I asked Richard what extra tall people should do,

and he gave me the auditory equivalent of a shrug.)

I asked Dan about private signage, political or otherwise, and he referred me to the Town Office for the rules around that. In short, there really aren’t any. Penny Marine, our Town Clerk, told me: “Guilford doesn’t have zoning laws, but the rule of thumb is, you don’t want it right on the road.” There is one exception, which is Coolidge Highway, because that’s a state highway, and the State crews have a low tolerance for signage that might impede the right of way.

The Guilford Highway Department has a lot to do, and they work hard, so next time you see Richard, Dan, Peter, Jim, or Jason, give them a thank you!

Guilford Volunteer Fire Department News

BY FF WILLETTE

The Guilford Volunteer Fire Department responded to 305 emergency calls in 2022, its highest number ever. In the five years before that the highest number was 272 in 2019.

The incident breakdown for 2022 (approximate totals, subject to final analysis) is as follows:

Alarms: 17	Brush Fires: 5
Chimney fires: 2	Controlled burn/Smoke investigations: 3
Emergency medical calls: 166	Motor vehicle accidents: 44
Mutual aid given: 46	Odor/Carbon monoxide investigations: 6
Public Assist: 1	Police Assist: 1
Structure fires: 1	Trees/wires down: 10
Vehicle fire: 3	

Included in these incidents were 23 responses to Interstate 91. We provided 46 mutual aid responses to nine area towns: Bernardston, Brattleboro, Hinsdale, Marlboro, Newfane, Northfield, Putney, Vernon and West Dummerston.

Also, we received mutual aid assistance from four departments during nine incidents: Bernardston, Brattleboro, Halifax, and West Dummerston, VT.

Thanks so very much to our mutual aid partners and thank you to Southwestern NH Fire District Mutual Aid for the communication that makes this all work.

A big thank you to our dedicated members for their time. Thank you to our community for your support.

Fire Department Statistics

July:

7 fire
12 medical calls
4 mutual aid

August:

9 fire
19 medical calls
3 mutual aid

September:

4 fire
9 medical calls
4 mutual aid

Thanks to

Victor Johnson

BY WANDA ATOMANUK

The Guilford Volunteer Fire Department wishes to extend a special thanks to Victor Johnson for his help in changing all the lighting at the fire station over to LED. He helped pick the materials needed and generously volunteered his time after work to install everything.



News from our State Representative, Sara Coffey

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve the people of Guilford and Vernon in the Vermont House. On Wednesday, January 4th the Vermont Assembly reconvened for the start of a new legislative biennium. Unlike what happened in the U.S. House, our Speaker was elected on a tri-partisan vote, House members were sworn in, and we got to work.

This year there is a lot of change in the Vermont House with many veteran lawmakers who did not run for re-election, so we have many new members, and new committee chairs, and I am honored to be appointed into a leadership position as the new Chair of the House Transportation Committee.

The House Transportation Committee is both a money and policy committee. The Committee oversees the \$900 million transportation budget and transportation related policies. As folks may know, I enjoy working on budgets because I see them as expressions of our values and priorities. The transportation budget reaches every community in Vermont through its funding for transportation projects and programs throughout the state. The Transportation Committee is also where the legislature is doing much of its work to address climate change by helping Vermonters transition to more fuel-efficient and electric vehicles and funding sustainable transportation investments throughout the state. I'm looking forward to fostering collaboration in the Committee to continue to advance this important work.

This year the legislature will meet in person at the Statehouse until we



Rep. Sara Coffey will chair the House Transportation Committee

adjourn in mid-May. The public will continue to have access to our work through live-stream and archive recordings which you can find via the Vermont Assembly website: www.legislature.vermont.gov/. During the legislative session I stay up in Montpelier every week, Tuesday through Friday.

I am looking forward to seeing folks in person at Town Meeting to share some updates. During the session the best way to reach me is through email (SCoffey@leg.state.vt.us) or by joining me at one of my monthly "Coffee with Coffey" hours, which I will host on the second weekend of each month. These are great opportunities to connect with neighbors and to share your ideas and priorities and ask

questions about the issues we are working on. Occasionally we will have some guest experts joining us. Everyone is welcome!

For those who cannot attend in person, join me via Zoom on the second Sunday of every month from 3-4 PM. I will post a reminder with a Zoom link on Front Porch Forum and on my legislative Facebook page. Folks can also send me an email before 2:30 PM and I will be happy to send a link for Zoom.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and productive 2023. I look forward to connecting with constituents, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you need assistance or have a question.



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Guilford Free Library Storytime

BY CATHI WILKEN

Storytime at the Guilford Free Library happens every Tuesday afternoon, beginning at 2 PM. The *last* Tuesday of each month will be *hybrid*, in person *and* on Zoom.

Coming to storytime gives children, caregivers, parents, and grandparents a great social opportunity. Young children get to interact with others and practice social skills in a place where everyone is learning. Caregivers, parents, and grandparents have an opportunity to meet and talk to others with children in the same age range.

Even if you can't make it to the library for the regular storytime, you can plan a storytime at home for your family. Get books from the library for your storytime...they're free!

Reading, singing, talking, playing, and coloring are all important pieces that help develop a child's base knowledge needed when learning to read.

During storytime, at the library and at home, children pick up on how to interact with books based on how they see adults using them. Using a book properly by holding the book right side up, starting at the front of the book, and following words left to right are all skills that you are teaching when reading a book to your child. Bringing attention to the words printed on the page helps raise print awareness, connecting the words and sounds they hear with the print representation.

Reading stories introduces your child to new words and new ideas that s/he can use to help describe the world around him/her, expanding vocabulary as well as different experiences in the world. Talking to children about what they know of an animal or event that happened in the story helps them make connections in their brain, deepening their understanding of the world.

Singing songs with children slows down our speech patterns, making it easier to practice enunciation of words. Singing is also repetitive; children practice words and phrases over and over to remember and give meaning to the words they are learning.

Guilford FOLK Brings People Together Fostering Our Living Knowledge

BY JOHN SHAW

Guilford FOLK Learning Connections seeks to bring neighbors together to learn and share from and with each other in a fun, supportive, and informal atmosphere.

In the past year we have hosted various activities, including Guilford Winter Pen Pals, backyard sugaring, philosophy discussions, board games, story sharing, moth viewing, greeting card workshop, and more. We meet every two months to brainstorm new ideas and nudge ongoing projects along. All are welcome!

One exciting upcoming event to highlight: on March 11 the Guilford Free University returns!

Some of you may remember this day-long event with a variety of workshops and discussion groups at the Broad Brook Community Center, first held in 2019. The new schedule of activities is still being developed.

Do you have something to share? A question to pursue? Get in touch to help shape this event.

Other ideas are at

different levels of realization, perhaps needing a date or a venue or a further boost of interest to spur them into becoming. Briefly, they include: astronomy club, poetry slam, photography club, trash art sculptures, community talent show, schoolhouse tour, caregiver support group, walking/biking trails network, firewood stacking, basic plumbing, recipe swap, and so on. Let us know if any of these spark your interest, or if you have other ideas we might pursue together.

Email guilfordfolk@gmail.com with any ideas, thoughts or questions.



Guilford FOLK December meeting

Playing is important for children to learn about the world around them and practice how to interact. Playing over and over develops the connection pathways in the brain and gives children a chance to test out different reactions to the same situation and see the varying results.

Coloring seems like just a fun filler activity, but it is learning! Children are developing fine motor skills, figuring out how to manipulate the crayon, getting them ready to hold a pencil and learn to write.

So plan on storytime, at the library or at home, and be assured that you are teaching basic skills—skills that are necessary for learning to read and succeed in the world!



A child enjoying storytime.

Church Hosts Concert Series

BY RACHEL JOHNSON
& ANDY DAVIS

The Guilford Community Church had the first in its Concert Series for 2023 on February 5, in the lovely sanctuary at GCC, 38 Church Drive, in Algiers Village.

You may already be aware of GCC's very long and rich musical heritage! The rest of 2023 GCC Concert Series will only be briefly stated in this edition of the Gazette but will be fully publicized at later dates including bios of all the performers.

We look forward to a lively concert by well-known Vermont musician/educator, GCC member and choir director, Andy Davis, for the second concert of the series in late March. He'll be joined on stage by several family members who will all sing and perform some of Andy's original music on various instruments in late March.

We will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Shirley Harris Crockett Memorial in May, led by Larrimore Crockett, to showcase Shirley's children's stories—possibly sharing videos of Shirley and a few favorite musical selections.

In early June we are planning a Children & Families Event including Tom Yahner, Brattleboro educator and juggler extraordinaire, along with lots of other children's activities. There may also be a local area children's choir formed by Peter Amidon to present several selections.

At the end of September or early October one or more Guilford Community Choir concert(s) will showcase beloved compositions and arrangements by Peter and Mary Alice Amidon, highly respected musicians locally as

well as throughout the region, country and beyond. It's been 5 years since the last large GCC choir concert was staged at the Latchis Theatre, so it will be a joy to invite the community to come celebrate with us again!

Community Calendar

Saturdays 10-11 AM In-person Coffee with Coffey

Feb. 11, BBCC in Guilford
April 8, BBCC in Guilford

March 11, Vernon Free Library
May 13, Vernon Free Library

Saturday, March 4, 2023: Broad Brook Grange's Sugar-on-Snow Supper

Seatings at 5 pm, 6 pm, 7 pm. Tickets: \$15 for adults; \$5 for children ages 5-12, and \$2 for kids age 4 and under. Reservations may be made by e-mailing (the preferred method) Thayer at thayertomlinson@hotmail.com. Or you may text her at 202-247-5251. As a third choice the landline is 802/257-5359. At the BBCC.

Saturday, March 18, 2023: Sugar-on-Snow Supper or Celebration of Maple?

Phone or email Fred Breunig for details: fmbreunig@comcast.net or (802-254- 9019).

Guilford Community Church Concert Series:

Sunday, March 26 Andy Davis

Sunday May 21 Shirley Crockett's 25th Memorial Concert.

Tickets at the door, suggested donation of \$10-\$25.

May 5-7 2023: Our Town, directed by Ian Hefelee, produced by Guilford Center Stage at BBCC

ONGOING:

Every Tuesday

• 2 PM IN-PERSON or ZOOM STORYTIME Library—Cathi Wilken & Laura Lawson Tucker present a program of songs, fingerplays, books and activities for babies, toddlers and older siblings (free) Info: 257-4603 Email staff@guilfordfreelibraryvt.org to request the zoom link.

Every second Tuesday of the month

• 9 AM GAZETTE MEETING Via Zoom or at the Guilford Store. Help plan the next issue.

3rd Wednesday of the month.

• 6:30 PM TALK ABOUT BOOKS Books are available to borrow from the library. (Free)

Every Thursday

• 3-4 PM GUILFORD CARES FOOD PANTRY at Guilford Fairgrounds. Info: call Pat Haine 257-0626.



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ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

This newspaper is for you! We (the community volunteers) put together this newspaper for the community. We welcome your comments and questions. We hope that the Gazette provides a way for people in the community to communicate about local interests and goings on. Anyone can submit an article or letter to the editor--just put it in the Gazette Box at the library or the school, or mail it to The Guilford Gazette c/o Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301.

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*A GCC first grader on the ice
at Memorial Park*

